

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
OFFICERS
OF THE
BLIND INSTITUTE,
TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,
1875.

PRINTED BY AUTHORITY.

JACKSON, MISS.:
PILOT PUBLISHING COMPANY, STATE PRINTERS.
1875.

E R R A T A .



Page 2, Teacher of Handicraft, read *Mr.* H. S. Smith for Mrs. H. S. Smith.

Page 3, 18th line from bottom, for report, read *reports*.

Page 10, for List of Pupils under treatment, read List of Pupils under *instruction*.

On fourth page of cover, Teacher of Handicraft, read *Mr.* H. S. Smith for Mrs. H. S. Smith.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE
MISSISSIPPI BLIND INSTITUTE
FOR THE YEAR 1874.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

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Gov. ADELBERT AMES.

VICE-PRESIDENT,

Hon. JAMES HILL.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER,

Rev. W. C. CRANE.

Hon. MARION CAMPBELL, Dr. WIRT JOHNSTON,
Capt. O. S. LEE.

OFFICERS OF THE ASYLUM.

SUPERINTENDENT,

Dr. EDWARD LEA.

LITERARY TEACHER.

Miss ANNA E. COORPENDER.

MUSIC TEACHER,

Mrs. M. M. THOMAS.

FEMALE WORK DEPARTMENT,

Mrs. H. S. SMITH.

TEACHER OF HANDICRAFT,

Mrs. H. S. SMITH.

MATRON,

Mrs. HONORA FLETCHER.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

To His Excellency, Adelbert Ames, Governor of the State of Mississippi :

We herewith transmit the annual report of the Superintendent and Treasurer of the Mississippi Asylum for the Blind, and respectfully call your attention to the suggestions contained in the former.

While no report is required by law from our Board, we deem it a duty to present to your consideration a succinct statement of the present condition of the Institution, and its management since it came under our charge.

When our Board was organized, we found the Institution in a demoralized condition, which was brought about by certain parties in view of an anticipated change in its management. Some of the pupils, we found upon investigation, were very active in producing this discord. After a thorough examination into the facts, although a disagreeable duty, we felt constrained, in order to quell the insubordination and restore harmony, to expel one of the pupils.

Your Excellency will see from the report of the Superintendent, that the Institution is sadly in need of books and

other requisites, absolutely necessary for the instruction of the pupils. Certain repairs on the buildings and premises are imperatively demanded. As you will see, the Superintendent estimates the amount necessary to accomplish these suggestions at \$2,506.

By reference to the Treasurer's report, you will ascertain the pecuniary condition of the Institution. When we entered upon our duties, on April 7th, we found that the Board preceding us had drawn and expended \$5,000 of the warrants, this amount being one-half of the annual appropriation, leaving us only \$5,000 for the expenses of the Institution for the remaining nine months. We also found the Institution indebted to the amount of \$1,250, which we paid out of the \$5,000 drawn by us. We have sold \$2,000 of the warrants, and the remaining \$3,000 we deposited as security, and borrowed money in preference to selling at the low figure offered for the warrants, thereby saving a considerable percentage. When our warrants are cashed, which we have reason to believe will be in a few days, we will be able to liquidate at least \$700 more of our indebtedness, leaving a balance due by the Institution of about \$1,450 71.

We take pleasure in stating that, during the last year, there have been more pupils in attendance than during any previous year in the history of the Institution.

We are constrained to represent to your Excellency that the buildings are utterly inadequate to accommodate the constantly increasing number of pupils, and earnestly call for an appropriation for additional buildings. We deem the amount suggested by the Superintendent as necessary for repairs, to be absolutely indispensable.

We find many advantages already resulting from combining the office of Superintendent with that of Physician. Besides the saving in money, it secures that constant care and special treatment which our pupils require. We would call your Excellency's attention to another very great benefit growing out of this arrangement: In a letter to the Boards of Supervisors in the different counties, an offer was made of gratuitous treatment—*outside of the Asylum*—of indigent persons suffering from diseases of the eye. Thirty cases have been treated under the arrangement, in three of which successful operations have been performed.

In conclusion, while we fully indorse all that Dr. Lea has said in his report of the capacity and fidelity of the subordinate officers of the Asylum, we feel it to be a privilege, no less than a duty, to put upon record our sense of the remarkable efficiency of the Superintendent himself, and to commend him to the gratitude and entire confidence of all the friends of the Institution.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

JAMES HILL,
Vice President.

WM. C. CRANE,
Secretary.

O. S. LEE,
WIRT JOHNSTON,
MARION CAMPBELL.

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 24, 1874.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Asylum for the Blind :

GENTLEMEN—In compliance with the law, I make the following annual report of the progress and condition of the Asylum under your direction, for the year ending December, 1874:

You have many causes for congratulation, among which is our improved financial condition. We are all well aware that there is nothing connected with the management of public institutions more closely scrutinized than its finances. In this respect, I am happy to say, we can challenge the strictest investigation. Necessity taught and forced us to practice the most rigid economy. You, gentlemen, who have gone with and sustained me through the difficulties and embarrassments of the last three-quarters of the year, know that ours has been an actual struggle for existence. You remember very well that when we took charge of the Asylum, in April last, it was very far from being in a healthy condition, financially. Only one-fourth of the year had passed, yet one-half of the annual appropriation had been drawn and expended. In addition to this, we found a debt amounting to twelve hundred and fifty dollars. With this debt hanging over us, and nine month's support staring us in the face, we entered upon our duties fal-

teringly, but determined to make the best of it. I do not know, nor is it my purpose to inquire into the causes of our discomfiture that confronted us at the threshold of our charge. I may mention, however, that I have heard, that for some time the Asylum has been a quarter behind in its pay department, but we found it not only a quarter, but twelve hundred and fifty dollars in addition behind; this debt you paid out of the five thousand dollars drawn by you, leaving us only three thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars (three thousand of this in State warrants) to provide for nine months ahead of us. Had we received the full appropriation for nine months when we took charge of the Institution, with the rigid economy practiced, and your advantageous negotiations of the means at your disposal, we could have paid off the debt of twelve hundred and fifty dollars, and to-day have presented a clear balance sheet. As it is, we have paid the debt of the Asylum, and are not one-quarter's appropriation behind. Is it any wonder, then, that we should feel like congratulating ourselves on the result of our first year's effort?

The number of pupils admitted during this year is greater than that of any former year since its foundation. The number would have been still larger, had there been any provision for the transportation of the indigent blind of the State to this place. I have had many applications from this class for railroad passes, or other assistance in getting to the Asylum; but two of the railroads in the State would grant them free transportation. I would return my sincere acknowledgement, in behalf of several of our pupils, to Col. Thos. Rigby, President V. and M. R. R., and John J. Walker, Vice President M. and O. R. R., whose kindness, in granting them passes, enabled them to reach here.

Our pupils have made commendable advancement in every department, when we take into consideration the limited means we have of instructing them. In the Literary Department, we need Raised Letter Text-Books, Raised Globes and Maps. In that of Music, an Organ, Guitars, Violins, etc. In the Female Work Department, a Sewing Machine. In the Mechanical, complete and perfect Broom Machines. Our chief aim should be in every department to provide our pupils with every means of obtaining a livelihood. As a large majority, if not all the male pupils, must depend upon their trades, they

should have every advantage of machinery given them to gain a thorough knowledge of the trades taught. I am perfectly confident, from what I have seen and know of their work, that any industrious blind man can earn *at least* a livelihood by the trades taught here.

The health of our household has been generally good. We have had a few cases, of a mild nature, which readily yielded to treatment.

You, Gentlemen, are all well aware of the decaying condition of the property, and unless soon repaired, parts of it will in a short time be unfit for use. The main building needs a new roof. Two rooms, used as sleeping apartments, are unfinished. In cold weather they are, if not detrimental to the health of the occupants, very uncomfortable. Our work-shop is in the same condition, the house having been originally used as a stable and carriage house. Our fences are decayed, and in places fallen down, rendering any attempt at gardening perfectly useless.

To make the repairs that are absolutely necessary	
would cost.....	\$2,011 00
To supply musical instruments, books, maps and ma-	
chinery, for school and the shop, would cost.....	495 00
Making a total of.....	<u>\$2,506 00</u>

Looking to the fact that the Asylum is now full; and, if those who have made application for assistance should get here, we would be over-crowded; and, also, that this year, for the first time, the colored blind of the State have availed themselves of the advantages of the Asylum, and there are many that I have heard of, through those now here, in the State, would it not be well to take some steps towards enlarging the Asylum, at as early a day as possible? I am confident, that before the present session closes, we will have to refuse applicants for want of room.

In closing this-report, I would express my thanks to all connected with the Asylum, for their cordial co-operation in my efforts to promote the best interests of those entrusted to our charge. They have promptly and faithfully discharged every duty incumbent upon them in their respective departments.

My relations with you, gentlemen, have been of the most pleasant nature. For your kindness, and the courteous consideration at all times given my opinions and recommendations, I tender you my sincere thanks.

Respectfully,

EDWARD LEA,
Superintendent.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The Editors of the following papers will please accept our thanks for the donation of their papers:

Daily and Weekly Pilot, and Clarion, Jackson; Dwight's Musical Journal, Boston; Holly Springs South, Holly Springs; Summit Times, Summit; Daily Times, Vicksburg; Meridian Gazette, Meridian; Central Star, Kosciusko; Eastern Argus, Enterprise; Holmes County Republican, Lexington; Grenada Republican, Grenada; Holly Springs Reporter, Holly Springs; Weekly Citizen, Brookhaven; Goodson Gazette, Stannton, Virginia.

We would also tender our sincere thanks to Dr. William M. Compton, Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, for many acts of kindness, and for his Christmas present of a fine assortment of vegetables from their garden.

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*LIST OF PUPILS under treatment during the year ending
December, 1874.*

NAMES.	POST-OFFICE.	COUNTY.
Anderson, Henry J.....	Clinton	Hinds.
Beaird, Geo. W.....	Pelahatchie.....	Rankin.
Brown, Lucie L.....	Pontotoc.....	Pontotoc.
Brown, Harriet L.....	Pontotoc.....	Pontotoc.
Bradford, Albert.....	Holly Springs...	Marshall.
Carr, Antoniette.....	Kosciusko	Attala.
Dalton, Louisa J.....	Cumberlan.....	Choctaw.
Dorsett, Penelope E.....	Arkabutla.....	Tate.
Freeman, Chas.....	Liberty	Amite.
Graves, Florence A.....	Midway.....	Hinds.
Green, Ned.....	Kosciusko	Attala.
Hickman, C. A. Endora.....	Summit.....	Pike.
Howard, Jane.....	Houlka.....	Chickasaw.
Jones, Laura E.....	Liberty	Amite.
Mann, Laura.....	Cumberlan.....	Choctaw.
Marcum, Sallie J.....	Holly Springs...	Marshall.
Miles, Mary F.....	Coopwood.....	Winston.
McGhee, H. C.....	Summit.....	Pike.
McKeever, Wm.....	Shubuta	Clarke.
Purl, Jos. C.....	Magnolia	Pike.
Scruggs, Wm. W.....	Holly Springs...	Marshall.
Spikes, Emma G.....	Bigbee Fork....	Lee.
Steel, D. B.....	Summit.....	Pike.
Walker, Anna E.....	Wesson	Copiah.
Walker, Wm. D.....	Harrisonville...	Simpson.
Watson, Mary.....	Shubuta	Clarke.
Watson, Wm. H.....	Holly Springs..	Marshall.
Whittington, Alice.....	Hickory Flat...	Benton.
Whittington, M. V. B.....	Hickory Flat...	Benton.
White, Q. A. Hasseltine.....	Wesson	Copiah.
White, Jephtha C.....	Wesson	Copiah.
White, Frank.....	Wesson	Copiah.
Whitton, Wm. T.....	Houlka.....	Chickasaw.
Wiatt, Thos. C.....	Lake Como.....	Jasper.
Winfree, Cornelius.....	Clinton.....	Hinds.
Zachry, Robt. J.....	Meridian.	Lauderdale.

White males, 14; white females, 17; colored males, 5; total, 36.

STATE BLIND ASYLUM, in account with W. C. Crane, Treasurer.

1874.	Dr.	Amount disbursed, as per vouchers hereunto annexed.....	Ck.
April 18 To \$1,000 State warrants, sold at 78c	\$780 00		
May 18 " " 80c	800 00		\$3,680 00
July 6 Cash borrowed on warrants....	824 50		
July 21 " " 50	824 50		
Sept. 23 " " 00	156 00		
Nov. 2 " " 00	95 00		
Dec. 23 " " 00	200 00		
Total.....	\$3,680 00	Total.....	\$3,680 00

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT.

1874.	Dr.	1874.	Ck.
April 7 To State warrants.....	\$5,000 00	April 18 By warrants sold...	\$1,000 00
		May 18 " "	1,000 00
		By amount placed in the hands of Musgrove & Co., as collateral....	3,000 00
Total.....	\$5,000 00	Total.....	\$5,000 00

This supplemental statement is made to show the disposition of the warrants drawn by the Treasurer. This could not be made to appear in the preceding statement, which shows only the receipt and expenditure of cash. It will be seen that we have borrowed, at different times, on the warrants (\$3,000) in the hands of Musgrove & Co., \$2,100, which, with interest to date (\$163 41) makes a total of \$2,264 07. This will leave us a balance in warrants, when they shall be cashed, of \$736 93.

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